

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 12, lines 15 to 18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

~~condition~~ **Condition** (1) is that the apparatus transfers a surface quality of the contact member to a surface of the image recording layer and an interface of the thermoplastic resin layer facing the image recording layer of the sheet;

Please replace the paragraph on page 44, lines 8 to 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The aforesaid cooling unit 17 is not particularly limited provided that it can cool and solidify the sheet which has been subjected to heat and pressure, to a temperature less than the softening point of the thermoplastic resin in the thermoplastic resin layer while it is still adhering to the endless belt, and cooling apparatuses known in the art may be used. In this Example 1, a cooling apparatus which blows cold air is used, and cools to below 80°C which is the softening point of the thermoplastic resin.

Please replace the paragraph on page 44, lines 19 to 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The ~~aforesaid~~ separation unit is formed so that the cooled, solidified sheet separates from the belt under its own rigidity (strength) while it is moving on the endless belt 15, so the diameter of the suspension roller 23 is preferably set small.